



The Florida House of Representatives

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Paycheck Protection Passes Florida House

Tallahassee, Fla. – House Bill 1021, Paycheck Protection, today passed the Florida House of Representatives. HB 1021 protects and empowers union workers, increases accountability and transparency for unions, and serves to prevent the appearance or reality of government favoritism or entanglement with partisan politics.

“Unions don’t necessarily reflect the political motives of their members and this bill aims to empower union members to determine how and to whom they make political contributions,” said Representative Chris Dorworth (R-Lake Mary), sponsor of HB 1021. “Unions should not be the sole decision maker in how union dues are spent; members participating in the union should play a fundamental role in that process and should not be forced to contribute their hard-earned dollars to a political party or initiative they do not agree with.”

The bill requires an annual written authorization from all union members before any individual dues can be spent for political purposes, and prohibits a union from requiring a worker’s authorization as a condition of membership in the union.

“By prohibiting public employers from handling union dues and other deductions made for the purposes of political activity the automatic withdrawal of union dues as well as any other deduction for the purpose of political activity, the bill ends a practice that has in the past created the appearance or reality of government favoritism or entanglement with partisan politics,” added Representative Dorworth.

The bill also provides the member a pro rata refund on any dues not authorized to be spent on political purposes, and allows the union member to revoke the authorization at any time. To ensure accountability to union members, the bill requires the union to provide an annual detailed account of all political contributions and expenditures.

“Without the protections provided in this bill, employees who disagree with political campaigns that the union supports have two options: to not join the union, or to help fund a campaign that they do not support,” said Representative Seth McKeel (R-Lakeland), chair of the State Affairs

Committee. “This bill is consistent with the history of the state’s involvement with the relationship between employers, employees, and labor unions and the protection of the rights of Florida’s workers.”

For more information on HB 1021, please visit the [Florida House of Representatives website](#).

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